

Inside Your Third

The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District Electric Department

2 Second Street • East Norwalk, CT 06855

Your Commission

David L. Brown
Chairman

Stephen M. Feinstein
Commissioner

Paul S. Coggin
Commissioner

John A. Stoops
Treasurer

Upcoming Events

- May 10th TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street
- May 15th Children I.D. Workshop 9:00 am at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street
- May 23rd Wilfredo Perez, Jr. Memorial Service 1:00 pm Shea/McGrath Memorial
- May 24th TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street

Marvin School Arbor Day Celebration

Norwalk Clean & Green, which is headquartered in our house on East Avenue, hosted an Arbor Day tree planting near the playground at the rear of Marvin School on Friday, April 30th. Don Nelson of Clean & Green will initiate tree plantings on Arbor Day at all the schools in Norwalk in the years to come. Out of gratitude for the use of the East Avenue house, he chose Marvin school as the first school to be so honored.

Mr. Bob Bociek from Almstead Tree Company who donated the two trees planted at Marvin School said: "At Marvin, students were awarded for making posters about Arbor Day, and they planted two trees: a white oak -- "Little Oakie," they called it -- for the school, and a flowering dogwood in memory of Kelvin Alvarez, a fifth-grader who died this school year from leukemia.

The day's events, which included a proclamation by Mayor Alex Knopp, are part of the city's effort to be named a Tree City. Tree Cities must meet certain criteria and are named by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Connecticut has 10 Tree Cities, including Stamford. The Third taxing District is anxious to stay involved in additional tree plantings throughout our neighborhood in the years to come.



Don Nelson, President of Norwalk Clean & Green tells the Marvin students the history of Arbor Day.



Mayor Knopp addresses the Marvin School students at Arbor Day tree planting ceremonies.



Mayor Knopp places soil around the flowering dogwood tree planted in memory of Kelvin Alvarez.

Meter Audit Finds Overbilling Errors

Thanks to, then newly appointed, General Manager George Leary, a meter audit was initiated at the beginning of last year. The audit, which entailed assessing the accuracy of the installation and the monthly readout of 100 of our largest customer's electric meters, had never been done before. Over 95% of the meters tested

were judged accurate by the Meter Audit firm we hired. Unfortunately, there were about five meter installations that were originally installed incorrectly. Two of the worst cases were meters that have been overbilled by as much as \$25,000 per year for several years. Fortunately, DPUC guidelines

limit our exposure of payback to two years. Unfortunately, when the incorrectly installed meters were fixed, we had to reimburse these customers for two years over-billing. Accordingly, our income will decrease by \$50,000 per year in the future. Any new industrial meters are now installed and checked by several people.

Electric Department Employees Join E. Norwalk Cleanup



Pictured from left to right are linemen Glenn Favaro and Greg Goldstein of the Electrical Department picking up a refrigerator on Cleanup Day in East Norwalk.

As you read in the local newspapers, Ms. Laurel Lindstrom of the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association (ENNA) hosted a neighborhood clean up on April 17th. Participating in the clean up were representatives of ENNA, Sierra Club, Norwalk Clean & Green, the Department of Public Works, and workers from the TTD Electrical Department.

Using our rack body truck that has a hydraulic lift gate, Greg Goldstein and Glenn Favaro of our line department picked up large discarded items such as washing machines and refrigerators and took them to the local junk yard.

Commissioner David Brown volunteered his time and said it was one of the most rewarding things he had done in a long time. "When Ms. Lindstrom announces a clean-up in your neighborhood, be sure to come out and get involved. You'll feel good you did." said Brown.

Commission Approves Fuel Adjustment Cost Increase

At its April 26th meeting, the Commission unanimously agreed to increase the Fuel Adjustment Cost shown on your bill from 0.5¢ to 0.8¢ per kilowatt hour. Because the current cost of electricity in Southwest Connecticut is more than we are charging our customers, our Rate Stabilization Fund has decreased dramatically.

The Rate Stabilization Fund, which is funded through your bill payments, serves two purposes. First is to pay for the extra costs of electricity when we are charged more than we are collecting so that the community doesn't see fluctuating rate increases. Second is a hedge against the \$4,307,000 debt we owe CMEEC, the consortium we buy electricity from.

In 2003, we used \$97,804 from the fund to pay for higher costs of electricity. In 2004 we expect to show a loss of \$270,000 and in 2005 we are projecting an additional loss of \$179,000. Allowing the continued outflow of cash, we are placing our ability to pay off our debt in jeopardy. The 0.3¢ increase in the Fuel Adjustment Cost will help get us headed back in the right direction.

The good news is that this probably will be temporary as the automatic payoff of our debt continues and the price of electricity hopefully abates. The other good news is that on an average bill of 500 kilowatts the increase will amount to only \$1.50 a month.

East Norwalk Happenings

- The East Norwalk Improvement Association announces a child identification workshop at the library on May 15th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Representatives of the Norwalk Police Department will be there taking pictures and fingerprints of your children.
- The Veteran's Memorial Committee will conduct memorial services at the Shea/McGrath Memorial on Sunday, May 23, 2004 starting at 1:00 p.m. The name of East Norwalker Spc. Wilfredo Perez Jr. will be added to the names on the memorial. Shea/McGrath Memorial is located in Calf Pasture Beach at the end of Beach Road. The American Festival Concert Band will supply music
- Mr. Terry Rooney announces that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 31, 2004. The start time is 9:00 a.m. from Veterans Park. The parade will proceed up Van Zant Street onto East Avenue and then on to the Norwalk Town Green.